

14.

THE NEW TREATMENT
BY
ISOTONIC PLASMA.
(MODIFIED SEA WATER.)

BY A PHYSICIAN.

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PLATE I.



CASE OF INFANT WITH GASTRO-ENTERITIS AND
MARASMUS.

PLATE II.



CONDITION FIVE MONTHS AFTER COMMENCEMENT
OF TREATMENT.

THE NEW TREATMENT BY ISOTONIC PLASMA.

I.

M. Quinton: The Man and His Work.

EARLY in the new century, it began to be noised abroad that a new remedial measure existed in nature, rivaling *Radium* itself in its wonder-working powers. Not from the earth, but from the sea, had this fresh therapeutic force been obtained ; it was evolved from sea water as a basis. The sea plays a great part in the biology and chemistry of the globe ; not only does the sea contain more than thirty of the chemical elements known to man ; it constitutes also a nutritive *milieu* for innumerable forms of animal life, which derive from their surroundings vigour and vitality.

Problems of vital importance concerning the conditions of early life on the globe have for years been under the skilled investigation of M. René Quinton, Professor of Comparative Physiology in the College de France. Quinton, whose scientific work places him in the front rank of modern *savants*, has calculated the composition of the primordial oceans at the earliest period of biological times.

The fact was established that the earliest simplest organisms were those of the sea, and not of the land ; and science now accepts this discovery. What then

were the marine conditions favouring the life and the well-being of these simple protoplasmic units ?

After establishing the fact that the first occurrence of animal life was in the sea and not on land, Quinton next showed that the primordial oceans contained .8 per cent. of dissolved inorganic matter. That is, the fluid medium, in which the earliest organisms lived and moved and had their being, which provided nutriment and environment for them, was of this degree of concentration. Now this, while of academic interest, is further of very definite practical bearing on life on the globe at the present day.

Elementary physiology teaches that the cells of which all bodies are composed are bathed in a fluid medium which is derived from the blood vessels. This fluid medium, which nourishes all the cells of the body, has also a saline concentration of .8 per cent. That is, the concentration of the fluid in which primordial organisms flourished, is identical with that which bathes the cellular structures of nineteenth century organisms.

So much for concentration ; now for composition. We investigate the other end of the chain of life—the chemical composition of present-day living beings, and of present day marine fluid as we find it in uncontaminated sea-water. The parallel continues to work out : for the same chemical elements, in character and number, which constitute the structure of animals, are also those which, item for item, are found in sea-water as we know it. The difference between old-time and present-day sea-water is in its concentration ; and this will be referred to later.

Such generalisations as these could not fail to have important therapeutic deductions. If the complex solution of a certain saline concentration known as the sea-water of primordial times, exercised a favourable influence upon cell-life then, why not similar fluid of

PLATE III.



CASE OF GASTRO-ENTERITIS WITH MARASMUS.

PLATE IV.



CONDITION THREE MONTHS AFTER COMMENCEMENT OF TREATMENT.



a similar saline concentration now ? The question was put to the test ; the results came out exactly as expected. Uncontaminated sea-water, made "isotonic " with the circulating fluid in man, *has* a potent, far-reaching and highly beneficial influence on the human body in many forms of disease.

For full thirteen years Quinton has given the deepest study to the working out of these problems, and to their culmination in a new curative method of great and unexpected power. Every original investigation requires an exponent to sum up in less technical language the bearings of the scientific work on modern life and thought. This function was undertaken for Quinton by Dr. Bernard Arnulphy, physician of Paris, who has laid the English reading public under a great obligation by his lucid accounts, during the last four years, of Quinton's labour and its results. Dr. Arnulphy's latest presentment of this subject to lay readers is found in the quarterly journal entitled *The Quest* ;* and his article may profitably be read by all interested in this subject.

Various French physicians of eminence associated themselves with Quinton in determining the values of "isotonic plasma," as Quinton styles his marine product, in the treatment of disease. And as the investigations proceeded, it became patent that there was scarcely a form of chronic disease in which this *plasma* might not profitably be used. In some dangerous, and in some obstinate, maladies, the results of its use were semi-miraculous. There is no investigation like personal investigation ; and at our recent visit to M. Quinton's clinic in the Rue d'Ouessant, in Paris, we saw what was proof that a new era in medicine had dawned.

Take the miserable plight of the countless infants who die in large cities from malnutrition, sickness and

* Vide *The Quest*, pp. 489-504 for April, 1910.

diarrhœa. In our own East End they disappear like chaff before the wind. In France, 70,000 of these luckless bairns die annually. Quinton declares that by his methods 60,000 of these sacrificed lives could certainly be saved. That is less than the percentage of such cases saved at his clinics. No spectacle is more inspiring than one we witnessed in Paris. An emaciated babe, looking like a little mummy, was brought into the clinic. It was bluish in tint, its corneal reflex had gone, its respirations were four to the minute, its temperature was 40° C. The infant was dying—in fact practically dead. An injection of *Plasma* was immediately given. Within an hour a transformation had been effected. There lay the babe alive and active, with bright eyes, the appearance of death vanished from its face, and with every mark of commencing convalescence. It was a veritable resurrection. And this is the type of case, and this the first step in recovery, that one may see in a thousand instances at Quinton's clinic.

This case, and other cases, and photographs of innumerable other derelict babes thus restored to life, gave us material for reflection. The list of surprises grows apace during the morning visit. Here is a case of psoriasis—a peculiarly inveterate form—which has afflicted the patient for a quarter of a century. With *Isotonic Plasma* it has been very greatly benefited in six weeks. Here is a case of varicose ulcer in the leg of an old woman; she also had suffered from this painful affliction for over twenty years; and in her case treatment for six weeks had practically effected a cure. An astonishing case of cure of tuberculous ulceration presented itself in a girl. Here the ulcers were on the neck and over the lower spine; and they were healed over after the first injection. Truly the health still remained to be restored; but the sores were no longer sores after the first visit. Cases of eczema throng



CASE OF ECZEMA OF THE FACE, OF TWO YEARS' DURATION.



CURE BY ISOTONIC PLASMA IN SIXTEEN DAYS.



the clinic, and it is here where the *Isotonic Plasma* treatment is especially potent. So remarkable are many of these cases that I reserve fuller details for later in this article.

II.

The Method and Its Results.

THE value of a new method of treatment is estimated by just so much as it improves on procedures already in use. It is most valuable when it effectively cures conditions or cases hitherto considered as practically derelict. It is further valuable when by it other diseased states are cured more safely, quickly and pleasantly than with other methods usually employed. M. Quinton's *Isotonic Plasma*, within its range of action, does both. Certain acute affections hitherto exceedingly dangerous, are restored to health in some ninety per cent. of instances. Certain other affections of the chronic type, often very resistant to therapeutic measures, are swept into its curative net with a speed and certainty which inspires the wish that all chronic diseases could be as effectively dealt with.

The most illuminating example of the first category—the cure of the practically derelict—is in that devastating infantile disorder known as acute gastro-enteritis. The wastage of infant life from this cause is enormous. It is estimated that 70,000 children die of this malady every year in France. Nor is the mortality bill any less in populous centres nearer home.

This type of case—that of an infant dying from sickness, diarrhœa and wasting—swells the attendance at M. Quinton's clinics. At the Paris hospitals, after a certain grade in gravity is reached—when the child

in fact is almost moribund—the death rate expected is about 90 per cent. These cases come in numbers to Quinton's clinics. I have seen such, with the glazed eye, the occasional gasp for breath, the lividity of collapse, the deathly sweat on the face—revived, restored and ultimately made strong and well by the bold use of *Isotonic Plasma*. M. Quinton states that *the cured cases under his methods have reached nearly a hundred per cent. of those children where death is usually considered almost inevitable.*

Often the sickness and diarrhœa are arrested after the first injection. Sometimes so desperate is the case that while the earlier injections stay the dangerous symptoms, and bring the little sufferer back to assured life, the complete restoration to health and vigour requires weeks of constant treatment.

Picture in such cases a thin, miserable infant, vomiting even each teaspoonful of water, and having a dozen passages from the bowels in twenty-four hours. When seen, the corneal reflex is lost, the face and extremities chill, a cold sweat on the forehead, the fontanelle depressed, the respirations sometimes as low as half a dozen per minute. The child is dying—as good as dead. Now mark the effect after the injection of 100 c.c. of *Plasma*: the eyes brighten, the face and extremities regain warmth, the respirations increase, and often after the first dose the sickness and diarrhœa disappear. Next day—after further injections in the interim—vigour and vitality show themselves in the child as good as dead. It is a veritable resurrection.

Here is a typical history of cases such as these, which swell mortality bills so frightfully: A child, six months old, with white patches inside the mouth and about the anus—and possibly through the digestive tract; the abdomen was sunken, the skin, wherever touched by urinary moisture, eczematous. There was constant



CASE OF ALOPECIA, EXISTENT FOR SIX YEARS.



RESULT AT THE END OF TWO YEARS' PLASMA TREATMENT.



SCROFULOUS ULCERATED GLANDS IN NECK.



THE SAME, AFTER FOUR MONTHS TREATMENT.

vomiting, and at least a dozen passages daily from the bowels. The extremities were shrunk, the face icy cold, the corneal reflex almost gone. 100 c.c. of *Plasma* were given twice during the first twenty-four hours. Seen next day, the vomiting and diarrhœa had stopped after the first injection; the abdominal tone had returned, the face had a comparatively lively appearance.

The accompanying illustrations—(Plates I.-IV.)—depict two of these acute gastro-enteritic cases as they were brought to the clinic, and also their progress under treatment. The cases are typical, and need no special description. In such instances, under *Isotonic Plasma* treatment, the acute symptoms subside, the shrunk extremities become plump, the bones no longer protrude under the skin, and the full well-being of the child is restored. The problem of the wastage of infant life, so far as these cases are concerned, seems solved by M. Quinton's treatment. The little patients recover at home; they are not taken into hospital; they are fed and nursed in the surroundings under which they have fallen ill.

While the dramatic effects of *Isotonic Plasma* are chiefly manifest in the acute gastro-enteritis of children, its sway is scarcely less marvellous in various chronic skin diseases. In numberless cases of eczema it has won its spurs; intractable cases of psoriasis have yielded to its use; and in tubercular and specific ulceration it has produced healing in a few weeks in cases that have continued for years.

Plate V. shows a patch of eczema on the face of a girl. This eruption had been very resistant to treatment, having proved recalcitrant to *X Rays* and to the application of *Radium*. A series of injections of *Isotonic Plasma* produced, within sixteen days, the result seen in Plate VI. The eczema has vanished.

A very interesting case of alopecia is shown in

Plate VII. The little patient had been in this unsightly condition for six years. We saw her in the clinic in October of last year, with the very presentable head of hair shown in Plate VIII. It had required two years treatment to bring this about ; but the mass of hair is probably as much as would have grown in two years in a state of health. That is, the progress had probably been continuous.

These examples, taken from some thousands of carefully recorded cases in the records of M. Quinton's clinics, convey some idea of the wide range of Plasma Therapeutics. In one type of case, the quantities of *Plasma* necessary, and their prolonged repetition, appear to indicate the method of cure as one of direct supply of the normal saline constituents of the blood, which the organism seems unable to derive continuously from the usual sources. In yet another type of case, the small doses requisite to cure, and the immediate aggravation wrought by over-dose, warrant the view that the curative process is due to active selection, from the traces of metallic elements in the *Plasma*, of the appropriate metal or salt in the infinitesimal quantity present. Let it be remembered that the numerous elements, in bulk or in trace, present in animal tissues, are exactly those existing, in bulk or in trace, in *Isotonic Plasma*. A wider view is thus opened out of the protective mechanism of the body against disease—for what active part other than protective can the infinitesimal fractions of the rarer elements play in animal tissues ?—and the stimulation of such protective mechanisms when the appropriate elements, in natural infinitesimal quantity, are introduced in a state of nature into the organism. But, however we may speculate on methods, the facts are there.

PLATE XI.



ECZEMA OF HANDS AND FOREARMS.

PLATE XII.



THE SAME, AFTER TREATMENT DURING FIVE WEEKS.



III.

Practical Utility.

THERE is practically no limit to the remedial range of action of *Isotonic Plasma*, though hitherto it has been chiefly utilised in diseases of the chronic type. There is no reason for this restriction, as its specific action in acute gastro-enteritic cases and in the pyretic stages of tuberculosis indicates.

Naturally the curative powers of *Plasma* are not on the same plane of directness for all maladies, or for all patients.

Hypothesis apart, the actual remedial values of *Isotonic Plasma* are so varied and so considerable as to mark its introduction as a great advance in medicine. In the accompanying Plates, Plate IX. is that of a child with ulcerated tuberculous glands in the neck. The treatment covered a period of four months, from June 24th to October 20th; and the case may be taken as one fairly resistant to treatment. Plate X. shows the result.

Plate XI. shows eczema of the hands, and in Plate XII. is depicted the cured condition. This required five weeks to effect. In such cases the patients continue their ordinary daily avocation while cure is proceeding. It is unnecessary, as it is often impossible, for work to be discontinued. The only external application allowed is that of fomentations of cold boiled water. Of a similar case, cured by seven injections in twenty-two days. Quinton states: "*Aucun traitement adjuvant n'a été employé. La malade a continué à travailler.*"

THE
“QUINTON POLYCLINIC,”

for the administration of

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at

57, POLAND STREET,

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